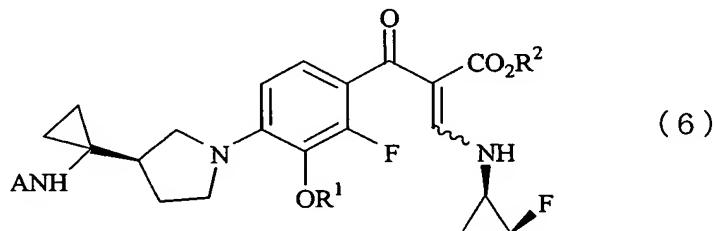
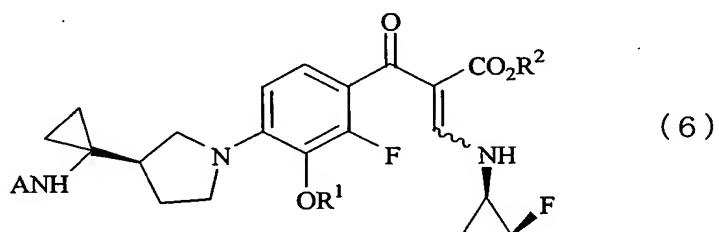


ABSTRACT

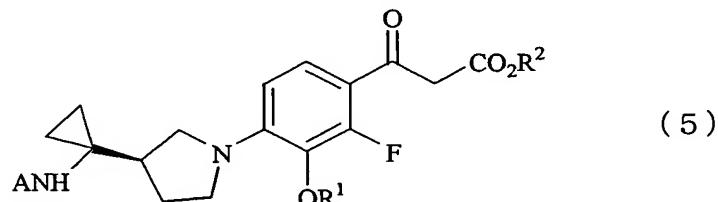
5        Provided are a technique for position-selectively introducing an amino group into a difluorobenzoic acid, a novel process for producing a quinolonecarboxylic acid derivative serving as an antibacterial agent, and intermediates in the production. The process comprises treating a compound represented by formula (6):



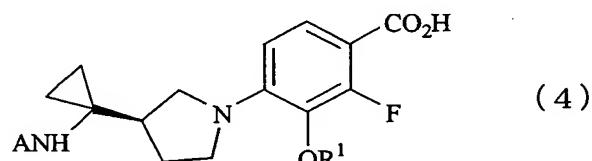
10        with a base in a water-containing solvent. The intermediates are represented by formula (6):



15        ; formula (5):



; formula (4):



20        ; or formula (3):